UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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PRIVATE RECREATIONAL USE OF CABINS ON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES WOULD TERMINATE UNDER PROPOSAL

Private use of recreational cabins on National Wildlife Refuges would be phased out under proposed regulations announced today by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of the Interior.

Only eight privately owned cabins and 12 under permit from the Bureau remain on the refuges to be cleared under the proposal. No new permits are being issued.

Existing cabins are located on the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge in Minnesota and Illinois, Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Montana and Parker River National Wildlife Refuge in Massachusetts.

The Bureau's proposed regulations conform with rules of the Department issued June 10, 1967, and with the Fish and Wildlife Recreation Act of 1962.

John S. Gottschalk, Bureau Director, explained that private recreational use of the few cabins within the Refuge System "is no longer in the public interest." He gave four reasons for this conclusion: (1) Existing and projected public need for use of such areas; (2) incompatibility between public uses and private cabin sites; (3) planned and potential development for such areas; and (4) the protection of wild animals and their environment.

Comments from the public regarding the proposed regulations will be considered by the Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Washington, D.C. 20240, for 60 days following publication in the Federal Register.

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